

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General appeals to parties in Nagorno-Karabakh dispute to maintain informal cease-fire; urges coordination of peace efforts; briefs Security Council on mission by his Personal Envoy Cyrus Vance to that region.
- + Security Council holds consultations to discuss draft text calling for sanctions against Libya.
- + Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson to visit Bangladesh and Myanmar concerning refugees from Myanmar.
- + United Nations inspection team examines missiles destroyed by Iraq.
- + Deployment of United Nations military component in Cambodia continues; troop strength to reach 15,900 by mid-April.
- + Brigadier-General Michael Minehane appointed Force Commander of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to the parties involved in the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh for the maintenance of the informal cease-fire which was arranged under the auspices of Iran, and which was to expire tomorrow, 27 March.

In a statement today through Spokeswoman Nadia Younes, he further appealed to all engaged in efforts towards the establishment of peace in the area, including the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), to exercise the greatest possible coordination in those efforts.

The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to his Personal Envoy, Cyrus Vance, whom he last week sent on a fact-finding mission to the region, for his "remarkable service to the United Nations and the cause of peace". Mr. Boutros-Ghali this afternoon briefed the Council on the mission undertaken by Mr. Vance.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss a revised draft text co-sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom and France calling for sanctions against Libya, including an arms and air embargo. The Council is meeting in response to failure by Libya to comply with Council resolution 731 (1992), which called for a full and effective response to requests for cooperation in establishing the responsibility for the terrorist acts against Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

The Secretary-General met on Monday, 23 March, with the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations, Ali Ahmed Elhouderi, concerning the two Libyans accused of involvement in the downing of Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland in 1988. The Libyan Ambassador told the Secretary-General that his country would hand over the two men to the League of Arab States. Following the meeting, the Secretary-General said he had requested a "written confirmation" from Libya that it would hand over the two men as a first step in full compliance with resolution 731 (1992).

Yesterday afternoon, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas R. Pickering told correspondents that it appeared that Libya was stalling the process and seemed to be engaged in a "shell game" with the Arab League. It was disappointing that the resolution was not going to be complied with after all, he said, adding that consultations on the new draft proposing a sanctions against Libya would now be speeded up.

In his comments to the press, Council President Diego Arria said the Council would meet in a formal meeting to vote on the draft text when consultations were over, most probably Friday afternoon or early next week.

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The Secretary-General has asked Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson to visit Bangladesh and Myanmar to examine humanitarian matters relating to the presence in Bangladesh of refugees from Myanmar. The visit will be at the invitation of the two Governments.

The Secretary-General Spokeswoman said Mr. Eliasson would arrive in Dhaka on Monday 30 March and would travel to Yangon on 2 April. He would be visiting the affected areas in the two countries.

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The ninth United Nations ballistic missiles inspection team today examined the remains of a significant number of ballistic missiles that had been destroyed unilaterally by Iraq.

According to a press release issued today by the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, team members had identified parts unique to each missile as

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well as some missile guidance sets. Those activities took place at various sites to the north and south of Baghdad where, for the past four days, the Iraqi Army had been excavating the buried debris, the Commission said.

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With 1,986 United Nations troops already in place, the deployment of military personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) continues, and full deployment is expected to be completed by mid-May.

A Malaysian infantry battalion is expected to arrive shortly, bringing the total UNTAC military component to 2,600 persons. The battalion Commander and an advance party of 47 are already in Battambang, and will provide security to the first convoy of Cambodian refugees returning from Thailand on 30 March.

Of the forces currently in the country, the bulk is formed by the Thai engineering battalion (700 men) and the Indonesian infantry battalion (850 men). Some 1,169 UNTAC military personnel are deployed in Phnom Penh, 780 in Battambang and the remaining 36 in six other locations.

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The Secretary-General today announced the appointment of Brigadier-General Michael Finbarr Minehane of Ireland as Force Commander of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). He is to succeed Major-General Clive Milner of Canada who will relinquish his post on 9 April. General Minehane is being promoted to Major-General upon appointment.

General Minehane has held a range of command and staff appointments in the service of Ireland. In 1991, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General and appointed General Officer Commanding Southern Command.

He is a veteran of peace-keeping missions, having served with the United Nations Force in the Congo (ONUC) in 1961; with UNFICYP in 1968; and as second-in-command of an Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 1979 and 1980. In 1982, he commanded the Irish battalion in UNIFIL.

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